

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) No. 4:24-mc-00094 NCC
)
)
TWO HUNDRED, SEVENTY-FOUR)
THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED)
TWENTY DOLLARS (\$274,920.00) U.S.)
CURRENCY: and)
)
ONE (1) 2007 LEXUS GS350, VIN:)
JTHCE96S170006927,)
)
Defendants.)

MOTION TO EXTEND TIME TO FILE COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE

Comes now the United States of America, by and through its attorneys, Sayler A. Fleming, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, and Stephen Casey, Assistant United States Attorney for said District, and respectfully moves this Court to extend the time in which the United States is required to file a verified complaint for forfeiture and in support of its Motion states as follows:

1. On September 19, 2023, the following defendant property was seized from Ricco Gipson:
 - a. \$274,920.00 U.S. Currency; and
 - b. 2007 Lexus GS350, VIN: JTHCE96S170006927.
2. All of the written notice of intent to forfeit required by Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(1)(A) to be sent by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to interested parties has been sent.
3. The time has expired for any person to file an administrative claim to the property under Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(2)(A)-(E).

4. The only person to file an administrative claim to the defendant property with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection is Ricco Gipson on November 2, 2023.

5. Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(3)(A) provides as follows:

Not later than 90 days after a claim has been filed, the Government shall file a complaint for forfeiture in the manner set forth in the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims or return the property pending the filing of a complaint, except that a court in the district in which the complaint will be filed **may extend the period for filing a complaint for good cause shown** or upon agreement of the parties.

6. Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(3)(B) also provides that the United States may maintain possession of the property by filing criminal charges within the relevant time frame.

7. Accordingly, absent an order extending its time, the United States must either file a civil complaint for forfeiture of the above-captioned property or file criminal charges on or about January 31, 2024.

8. The United States has an ongoing criminal investigation regarding the conduct giving rise to the forfeiture of the property. If a civil complaint is filed, any discovery in a civil case would impede the Government's ability to conduct its ongoing criminal investigation and would also create a burden on the claimant's right against self-incrimination. Should the property be returned to the claimant there would be no assurance that the property would be available as evidence in any subsequent court proceedings.

9. The requested extension is in the interest of justice insofar as it avoids the need for duplicative actions and thereby conserves judicial and other governmental resources.

10. A proposed order is included herewith for the Court's consideration.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing good cause, the Government respectfully requests that the Court extend the period in which the United States is required to file a Complaint against the property and/or to return criminal charges until April 30, 2024.

Dated: January 24, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

SAYLER A. FLEMING
United States Attorney

/s/ Stephen Casey

STEPHEN CASEY, #58879(MO)
Assistant United States Attorney
111 South 10th Street, Suite 20.333
Saint Louis, Missouri 63102
Telephone: (314) 539-2200
Stephen.Casey3@usdoj.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on January 24, 2024, a copy of the foregoing was sent via first-class mail, postage prepaid and addressed to the following:

Ricco Gipson
113 King Oak Drive
Godfrey, IL 62035

John D. Stobbs II
Attorney for Ricco Gipson
Stobbs Law Offices
307 Henry Street, Suite 211
Alton, IL 62002

/s/ Stephen Casey
STEPHEN CASEY, #58879(MO)
Assistant United States Attorney